



Open Space Steering Committee

October 7, 2021

Zoom Ground Rules



Agenda

1. Committee Chair Update
2. Administrative Actions – Meeting Policy
 - Adoption of electronic meeting policy – Jack Browand
 - Committee Minute Approval – Ana Vicinanzo
 - Establish meeting intervals/schedule - Staff & Committee
3. Committee Task Updates – Ana Vicinanzo/Judy Lo
 - Task 1, Item 1: Definition and Goals of Publicly Accessible Open Space
 - Task 1, Item 2: Work session
 - Overview of POS zone text amendment
 - Introduce Task 2 and timeline
4. Public Comment
5. Adjourn

Electronic Meeting Policy

Adoption of Meeting Minutes

This meeting: February, March, and April 2021

Next meeting: September, October, and November 2020, and January 2021

Following meeting: October and November 2021

Meeting Intervals

Proposed: First Thursday of the month

- November 8, 2021
- December 2, 2021
- January 6, 2022
- February 3, 2022
- March 3, 2022



Task 1:

Updating the Definition of "Publicly Accessible" Open Space

POS Zone Text Discussion

POS/Public open space and community recreation zone

- Purpose and short title.
 - The POS zone is intended to preserve and enhance Alexandria's publicly owned open space and recreational areas and to protect the natural and developed amenities they possess by allowing only that development which respects and is consistent with those amenities. This zone is intended to apply to all publicly owned open spaces, parks, recreation facilities and similar areas.
- Permitted uses. The following are permitted uses in the POS zone:
 - Recreational areas consisting of natural and unimproved geographic features such as woodland, meadowland or wetland areas, wildlife sanctuaries or preserves, water courses, streams, lakes and ponds, and similar geographic features;
 - Improved outdoor recreational facilities intended for passive and/or non-congregate recreational activities only, such as hiking and bicycle trails, squares, greens and commons, sitting areas, picnic areas and fishing sites, and like facilities, subject to approval of a site plan.

Accessory and Temporary Uses

- Accessory uses and structures.
 - Accessory uses and structures, including outdoor storage and park guard facilities, are permitted in the POS zone, subject to approval of a site plan.
- Temporary uses and structures.
 - Temporary uses and structures compatible with the purposes of the POS zone, such as fairs, festivals and competitions, and structure associated therewith, such as tents and band shells, may be permitted by resolution of city council, subject to such limitations, terms and conditions as therein specified; provided, that city council may by resolution delegate such approval authority, in whole or in part, to the city manager, under appropriate standards and guidelines, and subject to appeal to city council.

Special Uses

The following uses may be allowed in the POS zone pursuant to a special use permit:

- Public park and community recreation buildings, including enclosed and semi-enclosed shelters and pavilions, providing functions and facilities such as gymnasiums, meeting rooms, game rooms, arts and crafts centers, and dining and dancing facilities;
- Congregate recreational facilities;
- Commercial facilities customarily incidental and subordinate to the operation of public recreational uses, such as refreshment stands and small shops providing sporting goods and related services.
- Cultural facilities such as botanical gardens, arboretums, nature centers, conservatories, historic sites, archeological sites, monuments and memorials;
- Plant, tree and flower nurseries;
- Public utility rights-of-way, man-made lakes, ponds and water courses, and similar public works compatible with the purposes of the POS zone;
- Facilities for the lighting of any area in the POS zone for nighttime use;
- Outdoor market;
- Temporary public school classroom trailers in conjunction with adjacent public schools. This subsection shall expire on June 30, 2006. Any trailers permitted under the authority of this subsection shall be removed by that date.
- Public recycling center, provided that the director finds that the use does not interfere with an established active or passive recreation area; that no trees will be removed to accommodate the use, unless such removal is approved by the director of parks, recreation and cultural activities, and that uses adjacent to the recycling site are compatible with recycling activities.
- Indoor and outdoor roller skating and ice skating rinks, miniature golf courses.

Next Steps for POS Zone Text Amendment

Task 2:

Evaluate methods of pursuing
new publicly accessible open
space

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Develop criteria for considering opportunities for open space acquisition through the Open Space Fund (such as connectivity, walkability to neighborhood needs, access to water, etc.).

Task 2: Evaluate methods of pursuing new publicly accessible open space

Develop minimum open space criteria for small area plans based on current and future demographic needs and neighborhood characteristics.

Task 2: Evaluate methods of pursuing new publicly accessible open space

Evaluate the Open Space Ratio and/or other targets based on national standards and benchmarks for localities with similar densities.

Timeline

- **November:** Present and discuss open space gap analysis maps
 - Homework: review the maps
- **December:** Planning and Zoning present on Small Area Plans and identifying open space within SAPs
- **January:** Presentation about acquisition through developer contributions and the Open Space Fund
- **February:** Present and discuss open space benchmarks and national standards for open space
- **March:** Begin developing criteria for identifying open space benchmark criteria and acquisition

Public Comment

- Please use the "Raise Your Hand" feature of "*9" to inform staff you would like to comment.
- Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Information & Questions

- Information
 - [Open Space Planning](#)
- Questions
 - Ana Vicinanzo, Urban Planner II
ana.Vicinanzo@alexandriava.gov
 - Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner
judy.lo@alexandriava.gov
 - Jack Browand, Division Chief
jack.browand@alexandriava.gov

















What resources do you need from us?



Next Steps

- Next Meeting:
 - Meetings will be scheduled Monthly
 - Preferred day of the week and time of day
- **October Homework**
 - **Review notes on the definitions of open space that staff has compiled.**
 - **Be ready to discuss the definition of publicly accessible open space!**

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